

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2661

To amend the Clean Air Act to establish a grant program for supporting local communities in detecting, preparing for, communicating about, or mitigating the environmental and public health impacts of wildfire smoke, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 2021

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To amend the Clean Air Act to establish a grant program for supporting local communities in detecting, preparing for, communicating about, or mitigating the environmental and public health impacts of wildfire smoke, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Smoke-Ready Commu-  
5       nities Act of 2021”.

1     **SEC. 2. SMOKE-READY COMMUNITIES.**

2         Part A of title I of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401  
3     et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

4     **“SEC. 132. SMOKE-READY COMMUNITIES.**

5             “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of  
6     appropriations, the Administrator may make grants under  
7     this section to air pollution control agencies to support air  
8     pollution control agencies in developing and implementing  
9     programs that support local communities in detecting,  
10    preparing for, communicating with the public about, or  
11    mitigating the environmental and public health aspects of  
12    wildfire smoke.

13             “(b) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out a pro-  
14    gram described in subsection (a), an air pollution control  
15    agency may use funds from a grant received under this  
16    section for—

17                 “(1) activities related to the monitoring of, the  
18     interpretation of, and communicating with the public  
19     about data related to ambient air quality conditions  
20     that are caused by wildfire smoke;

21                 “(2) conducting community outreach in areas  
22     that are prone to poor air quality that is attributable  
23     to elevated levels of particulate matter and other  
24     harmful components of wildfire smoke;

25                 “(3) the deployment of air quality monitoring  
26     equipment in a manner that is sufficient to evaluate

1       an increased prevalence of poor air quality that is  
2       attributable to elevated levels of particulate matter  
3       and other harmful components of wildfire smoke;

4           “(4) equipping public buildings with air filtration  
5       systems that are capable of removing particulate  
6       matter and other harmful components of wildfire  
7       smoke from the air so that the public buildings  
8       may serve as cleaner air spaces during wildfire  
9       smoke events and other poor air quality events;

10          “(5) the purchase, storage, and distribution of  
11       face masks and personal protective equipment, in-  
12       cluding N–95 filtering facepiece respirators, portable  
13       air filtration systems, and other masks and equip-  
14       ment that are capable of removing particulate mat-  
15       ter and other harmful components of wildfire smoke  
16       from the air;

17          “(6) subgrants or providing other financing to  
18       private or other public entities with demonstrated fi-  
19       nancial need—

20           “(A) to acquire protective gear; or

21           “(B) to carry out weatherization measures  
22       to mitigate air infiltration; and

23          “(7) such other activities that the Adminis-  
24       trator determines to be necessary to carry out the  
25       purposes of this section.

1       “(c) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

2           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
3           the Administrator shall establish a formula to dis-  
4           tribute grants under this section among air pollution  
5           control agencies.

6           “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the  
7           formula required under paragraph (1), the Adminis-  
8           trator shall consider—

9                  “(A) the vulnerability of communities with-  
10               in a State to wildfire smoke; and

11                  “(B) the degree to which a State is prone  
12               to poor air quality that is attributable to ele-  
13               vated levels of particulate matter from wildfire  
14               smoke.

15           “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
16           are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
17           essary to carry out this section.”.

